



COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

1967

The Report of the Port Medical Officer

PORT OF GREAT YARMOUTH

INTRODUCTION.

The Port of Great Yarmouth was approved by the Minister of Health in accordance with article 17 of the International Sanitary Regulations as an "approved port" for the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates to masters of vessels with effect from the 1st October 1967. Two port Health Inspectors attended a three day intensive training course at the Port of London in connection with the approval of this Port. As every sea-going vessel is required by international law to have a valid Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate which is renewable every six months, there has been an increasing demand for this service locally owing to the great increase in the number of ships using the port. Most of this increase results from the use of Great Yarmouth as a base for the supply ships in connection with the North Sea search for oil and gas and the issue and renewal of Deratting Exemption Certificates is of great value to these vessels which rarely use any other port.

The great increase in the number of ships using the port over the last few years can be seen by the following table.

Year	Total No. of Arrivals	Total Net Registered Tonnage
1951	1,272	213,526
1961	1,759	Not available
1965	2,813	732,174
1966	3,806	896,540
1967	4,973	1,254,260

One member of the staff resigned during the year and owing to this increase in shipping and the extra duties involved in the Port becoming "approved" the already depleted inspectorate of the department were only able to carry out the most essential Port duties. Only a token amount of routine work was carried out.

An unusual development occurred towards the end of the year as a result of the London Dock Strike in that four vessels which had been diverted from London arrived at the Port with cargoes of Argentinian Beef Offal and Frozen New Zealand Lamb and Offal. As this was the first time such carcase meat had entered the Port, emergency arrangements were made for the hygienic handling of the cargo and for facilities to be provided for the inspection of the meat.

This report is compiled in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 33/52. As there has been no change in the matters listed under Sections V, VI, VIII, XIV, XV and XVI, the information relating to these subjects has not been repeated.

Section I — STAFF

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
K. J. GRANT	Port Medical Officer	1.6.48	M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
R. G. NEWBERRY	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1.6.60	M.B., B.S. D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
F. T. PORTER	Port Health Inspector	3.3.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
R. S. R. COLEMAN	Deputy Port Health Inspector	10.6.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Section II — AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

The following table shows the amount of ships and tonnage arriving at the port between the 1st January and the 31st December 1967.

TABLE B.

Total number of Ships Foreign and Coastwise*	Net Registered Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships re- ported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
		By the M.O.H.	By the Inspectors	
4,973	1,254,260	1	141	Nil

*Separate figures for Foreign and Coastwise ships not available.

Section III — CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

No passenger boats used the port during the year but a few cargo boats carried some passengers. The details are as follows :—

Number of passengers INWARDS	3560
Number of passengers OUTWARDS	969

CARGO TRAFFIC.

Cargo traffic increased during the year the details of which can be seen in the undermentioned table. In addition to these cargoes a large amount of traffic was involved in the supplies carried by the supply vessels to the North Sea oil and gas rigs. These supplies consisted of chemicals, cement, drilling equipment, steel pipes and grocery supplies.

The following table is completed from information supplied by the Port and Haven Commissioners for cargo handled during 1967 at the port and relates to imports and exports as separate figures are not available.

Cattle, Ponies, etc.	27,329 Head
Coal	47,851 Tons
Chemicals	8,301 „
Fruit and Vegetables	37,806 „
Groceries	40,167 „
Grain and Seeds	8,047 „
Fertilizers	60,263 „
Meal, etc.	28,146 „
Metals, Scrap Iron, etc.	77,300 „
Paper, Strawboards, Woodpulp, etc.	43,979 „
Petrol, Paraffin, Fuel Oil, etc.	523,373 „
Salt	7,590 „
Sugar	1,956 „
Timber	48,570 „
Others	23,650 „

PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Belgium—Antwerp.

Denmark—Fredricksund, Copenhagen.

East Germany—Hamburg, Bremen.

Finland—Kotka, Abo, Kemi.

Holland—Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Scheveningen, Maisluys.

Norway—Christiansund, Oslo, Trondheim.

Sweden—Kalmar, Gothenburg, Larvik.

Poland—Stettin.

Section IV — INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There was no inland barge traffic during the year.

Section V — WATER SUPPLY

No change.

Section VI — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952 - 1966

No change.

Section VII — SMALLPOX

(1) Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board, smallpox cases would be admitted to Ipswich Smallpox Hospital.

(2) It has been agreed that the Ipswich Ambulance Service will undertake responsibility for all arrangements for transport of smallpox cases to hospital. Applications for transport should be sent to the Resident Medical Officer, St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich (Telephone number Ipswich 77211). The Ipswich Authority is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

(3) Smallpox consultants available :—

Dr. W. A. Oliver, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

(4) Specimens for laboratory examination will be sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, The Hyde, London, N.W.9.

Section VIII — VENEREAL DISEASE

No change.

Section IX — CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SHIPS

TABLE D. — Nil.

No notifiable diseases occurred on ships arriving at the port during the year but members of the crew of a Swedish vessel complained that other members were suffering from diarrhoea. An investigation was made but there was no evidence of infectious disease.

Section X — OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No cases of malaria occurred in ships entering the port.

Section XI — MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague arrived at the port.

Section XII — MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

Routine inspections were carried out on a proportion of vessels arriving from foreign ports during the year by the Port Health Inspectors and Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates were examined at the time of inspection. If the certificate was out of date the master of the vessel was informed of the fact and a full inspection of the various parts of the ship for evidence of rats or mice was then carried out. In the event of there being no evidence of rats or mice aboard, a new Deratting Exemption Certificate is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1966.

(2) Arrangements for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents.

Bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents would be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich, but no specimens were submitted during the year.

(3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships.

As Great Yarmouth is not a Designated Approved Port, no facilities exist for deratting of ships.

(4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Efforts are made to secure the efficient rat-proofing of ships and faults, when these are discovered, are drawn to the attention of the master of the vessel for the necessary remedy.

TABLE E.

No rodents were destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports. 206 Brown Rats were destroyed in docks, quays, wharfs and warehouses situated in the port area.

TABLE F.

Great Yarmouth is not a Designated Approved Port for the issue of Deratting Certificates.

Eleven Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued between the 1st October and the 31st December 1967, the former date being the date at which the port became approved for the issue of these certificates.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951.

Seven rodent control certificates were issued under Article 3(2)(b) of the Order during the year.

These certificates are issued to coastwise vessels and are valid for four months from date of issue. The certificate states that the ship has been inspected and was free from rats and mice at the time of the inspection. If it was found necessary to treat any vessel for rats and mice in connection with the above mentioned order, trapping and poisoning would be carried out by the rodent staff employed by the department under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

Section XIII — INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices :—

Nature and number of inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory notices	Other notices	
British ships	27	—	15	14 complied with
Foreign ships	114	—	17	14 complied with
British fishing vessels	—	—	—	—
Total	141	—	32	28 complied with

Section XIV — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948.

No change.

Section XV — MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

No change.

No change.

FOOD INSPECTION

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937-1948

Four ships arrived at the port during November and December with a total of 1,372 tons of carcase meat and offal from the Argentine and New Zealand. Inspections of a percentage of this meat showed that it was in a satisfactory condition and that the official certificate markings on the carcasses indicated that the origin of the meat was from establishments approved by the Ministry. Other foods such as canned meat, fruit and milk, cheese, lard, biscuits, and margarine continued to arrive from Holland and Belgium at regular intervals. Fresh fruit and vegetables continued as daily imports from Holland. A certain proportion of these imported foods were inspected by the Public Health inspectors but only on rare occasions was any food found to be unfit and in these cases the food was surrendered and disposed of by burial on the Council's refuse tip.

10,075 cans (165,940 kilos) of Frozen Whole Hen Eggs entered the port during the year in regular consignments. Two samples were submitted for the Alpha Amylase test prescribed by the Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963 and were reported as having satisfied the test. Arrangements were made through the importer for a certificate to be submitted with each consignment stating that samples taken from the consignment had passed the Alpha Amylase test. 38 such certificates were received giving details of tests carried out at the Dutch Dairy Institute at Leyden and certifying that the Alpha Amylase test had been satisfied.


Number of inspections of consignments of imported food : 206.

The following table shows the number of imported food samples taken during the year and the results of analysis :—

Food	No. submitted	Result of Analysis
Canned sliced apples	1	Genuine
Canned evaporated milk	1	Genuine
Canned blackberries in syrup	1	Genuine
Canned pears in syrup	1	Genuine
Canned pork luncheon meat	1	Genuine
Canned frozen whole hen eggs	2	Genuine
Canned corned beef	2	Bacteriological and Chemical tests satisfactory.
Canned salmon	1	Genuine

Lard	1	Genuine
Fresh Lettuce	2	Genuine (0.65 p.p.m. B.H.C. present in one sample).
Fresh carrots	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh cucumber	3	Genuine (0.1 p.p.m. Dieldrin in one sample).
Fresh cabbage	2	Genuine (0.09 p.p.m. Organic phosphorous pesticide present. 0.02 p.p.m. Dieldrin).
Fresh tomatoes	3	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh melon	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh Burbank plums	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh Italian pears	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh South African oranges	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh Italian grapes	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).
Fresh French apples	1	Genuine (free from pesticide residue).

The four samples found to have traces of pesticide residue have been declared genuine samples as the amounts present are considered insignificant from the Public Health point of view.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29269064>

